



June 12, 2017

**TO: Rep. Jennifer Williamson, Chair House Rules Committee
Members of the House Rules Committee**

**FR: Petra Callin, Principal, Madison High School
Filip Hristic, Principal, Roosevelt High School**

RE: HB 3464

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Portland Public Schools we write to offer our support for HB 3464, which seeks to provide important clarity to school districts, students and families in public entities like PPS about protecting the privacy and rights of our students as it relates to immigration status.

Recent national and local events about increased federal immigration enforcement has caused considerable anxiety and concern throughout our school district and communities. Our students are living in fear that their parents could be picked up by federal officials and they are looking to our schools to be safe places where their privacy - and their families' privacy - are protected.

This uncertainty is resulting in our students worrying about their families' safety, which can be distracting from school and learning. Others are also going without meals because of fear that filling out a form to qualify for free or reduced lunch could become public information that puts their families' safety in jeopardy.

PPS is committed to ensuring access to education for all students regardless of immigration status, race, color or religion. In support of that commitment, earlier this year the District adopted a plan and protocol for how schools should respond if a federal Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raid occurs in one of our communities, or if Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel attempt to enter a PPS school.

This local plan and protocol was an important step, but state leadership on this issue is important to provide the certainty our schools need to ensure our actions to support and protect our students comply with state and federal laws.

House Bill 3464 will provide that certainty. With state law that validates our local policies, along with guidance from the Attorney General, we can provide our students and their families the assurances that their constitutional rights to receive access to education regardless of immigration status will not be violated.

This issue is so important to our students, their families and our communities. We respectfully urge your careful consideration and passage of HB 3464 so that Oregon can be a leader in creating safe and inclusive schools for all students.